This has been done taking into account prevailing interest rates in the entire financial systems and interest rates payable on deposits by NBFCs.

'Escort Service' for Common Man Visiting DDA

*494. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an 'Escort Service' to help common man visiting the office of Delhi Development Authority in Vikas Sadan;

(b) if so, the nature of service to be provided by Escort Service; and

(c) by when this service is likely to become functional ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) DDA offices are open to the public every Monday and Thursday afternoon when they can meet senior officers without fixing prior appointment. On other days, they may meet senior officers by appointment. For on the spot guidance, DDA has provided services of a number of Counsellors and Facilitators at its reception desk to help the common people.

(b) DDA has recently decided to upgrade these services and increase the number of Counsellors for better personal guidance and service to the public visiting Vikas Sadan. The Counsellors will help in preparation of the documents, guide them about the procedures and provide ready information on various subjects/policies.

(c) The service is already being provided. DDA has only decided to increase the number of counsellors/facilitators gradually after due training.

Social Evil of Scavenging

*495. SHRI R.N. ARYA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to tackle the social evil of scavenging;

(b) if so, the number of scavengers in the country;

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.